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MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. Baptists confirmed for SBC posts

SAN ANTONIO (BP and local reports) — Nominees from Mississippi Baptist churches and other churches across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) were confirmed by messengers attending the June 12-15 SBC annual meeting in San Antonio to serve on the boards and commissions of the convention for the coming year. Among those confirmed were:

SBC Executive Committee **Nashville, Tn.**

No new Mississippi Baptist members. Currently serving on the Executive Committee are Daryl E. Oster, pastor of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, whose term expires 2010; Ida South, member of First Church, Mathison, who term expires 2009; and Clarence E. Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, whose term expires 2008.

GuideStone Financial Resources **Dallas, Texas**

Joseph D. Fail, member of Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, replacing William T. (Dale) Patterson, member of First Church, Jackson, whose second term expired. Fail's term expires 2011. Currently serving as a GuideStone trustee is Forrest D. Sheffield, pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, whose term expires 2008.

International Mission Board **Richmond, Va.**

Charles E. Smith Jr., vocational evangelist of Sturgis, for a second term that expires 2011. Currently serving as IMB trustees are Anthony K. (Keith) Hartsill, member of First Church, Grenada, whose term expires 2010; and Wayne E. Marshall, pastor of Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, whose term expires 2008.

North American Mission Board **Alpharetta, Ga.**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. Currently serving as NAMB trustees are Mark Worsham, pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, whose term expires 2010; and Reva Daniel, member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, whose second term expires 2010.

LifeWay Christian Resources **Nashville, Tn.**

Michael F. Corley, member of First Church, Vicksburg, whose term expires 2009. He replaces Michael Webb, member of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, who resigned.

Currently serving as a LifeWay trustee is Mark H. Anderson, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland, whose second term expires 2010.



WHEREVER HE LEADS — Hundreds of messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting on June 12 surrendered to "whatever else God would have for them" as Tom Elliff, senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations for the SBC's International Mission Board (IMB), led the altar call during the IMB report on the first of the two-day SBC annual meeting at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Southern Seminary **Louisville, Ky.**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. Currently serving as Southern Seminary trustees are Glenn A. Miles, member of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, whose second term expires 2011; and John A. Temple, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, whose term expires 2010.

Southwestern Seminary **Ft. Worth, Texas**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. Currently serving as a Southwestern Seminary trustee is Edward A. Knox, pastor of Antioch Church, Columbus, whose term expires 2008.

New Orleans Seminary **New Orleans, La.**

W. Phillip Hanberry, member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, whose second term expires 2011. Currently serving as New Orleans Seminary trustees are Dwight D. (Dean) Stewart, pastor of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, whose term expires 2011; and Mack Grubbs, member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, whose term expires 2008.

Southeastern Seminary **Wake Forest, N.C.**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. Currently serving as a Southeastern Seminary trustee is J. Stacy Davidson, member of First Church, Jackson, whose term expires 2011.

Midwestern Seminary **Kansas City, Mo.**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. There are currently no Mississippi Baptists serving as Midwestern Seminary trustees.

Golden Gate Seminary **Mill Valley, Ca.**

Michael C. Routon, pastor of Green's Creek Church, Petal, whose term expires 2008.

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission **Nashville, Tn.**

No new Mississippi Baptist trustees. Currently serving as an ERLC trustee is James L. (Jim) Brown, member of Trinity Church, Southaven, whose term expires 2010.

Committee on Order of Business

No new Mississippi Baptist members. Currently serving as a member of the committee is Joe R. Turner, pastor of First Church, Horn Lake, whose term expires 2008.

In addition, SBC President Frank Page announced the appointments of Stan Buckley, pastor of First Church, Jackson, and Dean Register, pastor of Cross Point Community Church, Hattiesburg, to the Committee on Committees.

Page also appointed Chip Stevens, pastor of First Church, Starkville, to serve on the Tellers Committee for the 2007 SBC annual meeting in San Antonio. There were no Mississippi Baptists appointed to serve on the Credentials Committee for the meeting.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING

Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
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Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
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Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330

E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Not just another holiday

As we get closer to another Independence Day observance next Wednesday, there will be fireworks, food, and fun from sea to shining sea. Americans do like their July 4 midsummer holiday. I sometimes fear, however, that it's becoming more of a generic holiday, and less of a recognition of Independence Day.

That just shouldn't be, and that's a message I try to drive home in the issues of The Baptist Record before each Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day. It may no longer be politically correct to express patriotism for one's country, and that may be the path a lot of Americans take on this July 4, but it is unconscionable to forget the people who sacrificed so much to make possible each one of these Independence Day celebrations.

One of those people died this week in Edina, Minnesota. Charles W. Lindberg was the last living member of the group of Marines that first raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi on the tiny volcanic island of Iwo Jima in World War II, during one of the most gruesome battles in human history.

As the Allies tightened the noose around Japan in the south Pacific, it became clear that a number of outlying islands would have to be taken. One of those outlying islands was heavily-fortified Iwo Jima. When U.S. Marines came ashore on February 19, 1945, what ensued is almost beyond comprehension.

Of 22,000 Japanese defenders, nearly 21,000 had died by the time American commanders declared the island secured on March 26. At 27,909 casualties with 6,825 killed in action, the number of American casualties on Iwo Jima was greater than the total Allied casualties on D-Day in Europe.

It was that bad, and in the midst of the chaos was 24-year-old Charles Lindberg manning his flamethrower. By the morning of



U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, Washington, D.C.

February 25, Lindberg and five other Marines had managed to fight their way to the top of Mount Suribachi on the strategic southern end of the island. It was there that they raised a small American flag on a makeshift pole.

"Down below, the troops started to cheer, the ships' whistles went off, it was just something that you would never forget," he told Associated Press in a 2003 interview.

What isn't well known is the fact that Lindberg and his five comrades are not the Marines depicted in the Joe Rosenthal photograph on which the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Washington, D.C., is based. The Rosenthal photograph was taken some time later when an officer ordered a larger flag to be raised on Mount Suribachi, for a second time.

Lindberg, who was awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart, spent the rest of his life explaining that the famous

Rosenthal photograph was not the first American flag raised on Mount Suribachi that day. He felt an obligation to do that, because three of the original flag-raisers never made it off the island. They were killed in action.

As the years passed, few people understood or really cared about the real story of the Iwo Jima flag raisings. Even when Lindberg was invited to the dedication of the U.S. Marine Memorial in 1954, he arrived to find the names of the second set of flag-raisers etched on the monument.

Lindberg returned home to his electrician's job and lived the rest of his life without fanfare, although the Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution in his honor in 1995 and his name is listed on the black granite wall of Soldiers Field in Rochester.

This week, I just thought you would want to know his story.

Double vision: Priest claims to be Christian, Muslim

SEATTLE, Wash. (BP and local reports) — In what may be the first claim of its kind, an Episcopal priest in Seattle says she's both a Christian and a Muslim. What's more, her bishop finds the claim exciting and considers her still in good standing.

"Why would I spend time to try to reconcile all of Christian belief with all of Islam?" Ann Holmes Redding told The Seattle Times in an article on June 17. "At the most basic level, I understand the two religions to be compatible. That's all I need."

Redding, a priest for more than 20 years, said she became enamored with Islam in the fall of 2005 when a local Muslim leader spoke and then prayed at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, where she was employed as director of faith formation.

The way he fell prostrate on the floor captured her attention because it illustrated total surrender to Allah, she said.

Later, she heard another Muslim leader chanting a prayer, and the chanting appealed to her, Redding said. In March 2006, she made a Muslim profession of faith, stating there is only one God and Muhammad is his messenger. Now Redding has no trouble using Allah and God interchangeably.

"It's the same person, praying to the same God," she told The Times.

Redding, 55, grew up in Pennsylvania, and her father was one of the lawyers who

argued the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case that led to the desegregation of the nation's schools, The Times said. She graduated from Brown University and then earned a Ph.D. in New Testament from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

An African-American who wears her hair in dreadlocks, Redding told The Times that becoming a Muslim was like coming home after years in predominantly white congregations.

"To walk into Al-Islam and be reminded that there are more people of color in the world than white people, that in itself is a relief," she said of the local Muslim worship center.

Among her medley of beliefs is that the Trinity is an idea about God and cannot be taken literally, The Times reported. Redding also does not believe Jesus and God are the same, and she believes Jesus is the Son of God in the same way all humans are children of God and that Jesus is divine like all humans are divine because God dwells in all humans.

Jesus is unique, she believes, because He best lived out the qualities of someone filled with God. Redding said she does believe Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, though she doesn't yet know how to reconcile that to Islam.

"That's something I'll find a challenge the rest of my life," she told The Times.

As for Muhammad, she's still getting to know him.

Redding said she doesn't care what people think about her embracing two major world religions because they can't take away her baptism and no one can dispute her Muslim profession of faith.

Redding typically carries a black headscarf with her, she said, so she'll be prepared for prayers five times a day. "I pray not to cause scandal or bring shame upon either of my traditions," she said.

Whether God or Allah is supposed to answer that prayer, it isn't working, her critics say, considering that she has caused both controversy and shame, especially upon a Christian denomination that is facing a schism with the larger Anglican Communion over the issue of homosexuality.

V. Gene Robinson, who lives openly with a homosexual partner and promotes homosexual issues, was elected the Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire on June 7, 2003. His election and subsequent consecration has stirred controversy both in the Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the worldwide Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is an autonomous Province.

300 years of associations noted in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (BP) — Undergirded by 300 years of ministry experience, Baptist associations should move into the future with a willingness to innovate and nurture relationships with younger Christian leaders, local churches, and Baptist entities.

Speakers underscored those themes during a 300th anniversary celebration of Baptist associations in America June 10 at First Church in San Antonio, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in the Texas city.

The celebration was jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions (SBCADM) and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Jim Henry, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., called associations to face the future with creativity and innovation.

"There are changes in the air," Henry noted. "Today I call on you as directors of missions... to expand your horizons in a rapidly changing culture. ...We are called to move from limitation to innovation."

With innovation can come penetration of the culture with the Gospel, Henry noted. "What about the future?" he asked. "It's extinction or expansion. One of the two will happen."

Change can be positive, Henry told the audience. "Don't be afraid of innovation," he declared. "Change is always happening. Change is not always good, but many times it is something that moves us off the edge and out of our comfort zone and can be powerful and positive."

Associational ministers should be committed to relationships with younger Baptist

leaders who "want to know their DOMs on a personal level," Henry said. "They do want to cooperate with sister churches."

Directors of Missions, or DOMs as Henry referred to them, are known in Mississippi as associational missions directors, or AMDs.

Wanda Lee, WMU executive director, told the associational leaders she was glad for the opportunity to hold a joint meeting with them.

"We have strategically decided to begin our meeting celebrating with you," Lee said. "WMU has enjoyed a

long partnership with your predecessors. ...Even before WMU was officially organized in 1888, women were working in associations."

Lee thanked associations for their involvement in missions and predicted a positive future relationship between WMU and associations. "At the heart of what we do together in the associations has always been a missions purpose," Lee said. "We look forward to the next 300 years of working together."

Geoff Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board, called associational missions "the first line of Baptist cooperation."

Hammond said directors of missions "get the privilege of being closest to the churches. ... You're important in missions, evangelism and planting churches."

Many DOMs are "jointly funded missionaries,"



THREE CENTURIES — Jim Henry, pastor emeritus of First Church in Orlando, Fla., addresses the 300th anniversary celebration of Baptist associations in America on June 10 at First Church in San Antonio. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)

Hammond said. "We have a tremendous interest in this partnership we have together."

Words of affirmation for associations also were delivered by:

- Hayes Wicker, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Church in Naples, Fla., who voiced gratitude for "you who have labored in the Lord, and we believe your labor is not in vain in the Lord in local associations. ...I thank God on behalf of all pastors for what you do as our friends."

- Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, who noted LifeWay "is connected at so many points to directors of missions and associations. Let me say on behalf of LifeWay: ... Thank you, associations. Thank you, directors of missions ... and the best is yet to come."

- Charles Price, executive director of San Antonio Association (SABA), who commented it is "wonderful" that the 300th anniversary of associations coincided with the 150th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio association. Price said the first item of business for the newly formed SABA was the planting of a church in downtown San Antonio, which exists to this day as the city's First Church.

- O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, who thanked the DOMs for helping them expand GuideStone's Adopt an Annuitant ministry. Hawkins identified the association and directors of missions as key resources for locating retired ministers in need of the financial assistance provided through Adopt an Annuitant.

- Jim Leak, SBCADM administrator/treasurer and director of missions for Hill Country Association in Kerrville, Texas, who reciprocated with thanks from the DOMs for the affirmations offered. "I want to say to all our partners how much we appreciate the partnership. ... We can do much more as partners than any of us could ever do alone. ... Thank you for all you do for the Kingdom."

- Stephen Parks, director of missions for Unity Association in Lufkin, Texas, who served as chairman of the associational directors' task force that organized the anniversary celebration. During a benediction prayer, Parks asked God to help associations "to be faithful in catalyzing churches to be more effective and ...to have a missional focus that we would be faithful in fulfilling the Great Commission."

N.Y. debates gay marriage

ALBANY, N.Y. (BP) — New York became only the second state in which a legislative chamber has voted to legalize homosexual marriage, as the state Assembly passed a measure by an 85-61 margin June 19 to allow homosexual couples to receive marriage licenses in the state. The measure won't have any immediate effect, though, because the leader of the Republican-dominated state Senate reiterated his opposition to the bill and said it would not come up for a vote in his chamber before the end of the annual legislative session. Manhattan Democrat Daniel O'Donnell, the openly homosexual brother of television personality Rosie O'Donnell, proposed the legislation in April along with New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer. In 2005, both houses of the California legislature passed a homosexual marriage bill, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it. In Albany, New York's capital, Republican Teresa Sayward delivered an emotional plea for Assembly members to support the bill during a three-hour debate on the issue Tuesday night, according to the Associated Press. Sayward relayed the struggles faced by her homosexual son, who grew up wanting "to be normal." Democrat Dov Hikind, an Orthodox Jew from Brooklyn, spoke out against the measure because he thought it could open doors to special treatment for other deviant behaviors. "Maybe we should include incest in the bill and sort of deal with the whole package at one time," Hikind said, according to AP. When the voting ended, Democrat Matthew Titone, another openly homosexual member of the Assembly, held up his cell phone. "I have my partner here on the phone and he just asked me to marry him. My answer, Madam Speaker, is yes," Titone said to a round of applause.

Looking back

10 years ago

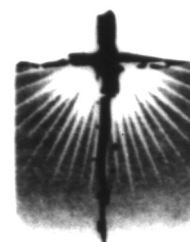
Ten students and two leaders from the Mississippi College BSU are the first ever Baptist volunteers through the IMB to Lithuania.

20 years ago

Joy Yates of Yazoo City is elected president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference during their annual meeting in St. Louis, held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting. She is the wife of James Yates, pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

50 years ago

It is estimated that in the summer of 1957 over 55,000 Southern Baptists will attend summer assemblies and camps in the 23 state conventions stretching across the country, not including participants at Ridgecrest and Glorieta.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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No Record on July 5

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper does not publish during the weeks that include July 4 and Christmas Day. There will therefore be no issue on Thursday, July 5. The next issue will be dated July 12, and all regular deadlines for that issue remain in effect.



**YOU CAN RESPOND
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1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritual
guidance.*

NO "MATERS" ON THE TABLE

Some time ago, I heard a man bragging about his tomato growing expertise. A friend of his, who was standing nearby, said, "He is the best! Nobody grows better tomatoes or bigger tomatoes in the county!" The expert grower replied, "Well, I have grown a lot of tomatoes and people seem to like them. They keep coming and getting them. In fact, in one day, in just one picking, I picked 1200 pounds. That night there wasn't one 'mater' on my family's table."

The fellow had picked over a half-ton of tomatoes for everyone else and yet had none left for his family. Of course, he was thrilled with his production and sales, but what about "matters" for himself and his family? I listened to him as he told his story of tomato growing, and selling, and none being left for him and his family. I thought about how many times that happens to pastors. I am certainly no expert, but from a personal standpoint, I do know something about being a pastor and being related to pastors. I am the son of a pastor. I am a pastor. I am the brother of a pastor. I am the father of a pastor, and I have had the blessing of being the friend of a pastor.

So many times the pastor is called on to provide spiritual produce and put tomatoes on everyone else's table, only to have no "matters" on his own table. It is not an unusual occurrence for a pastor to have something planned with his wife or children like an outing or a vacation, only to have all of the



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

plans change because someone else had a crisis. I have heard people say, "Well, that's what they are called to do." While that is true, the problem is that there is nearly always someone in crisis. The pastor and his family have to alter the plans they may have made regardless of how long they may have been in place and take care of the need. "Matters" must be put on the other folk's table.

I did not understand it at the time, but I remember what it felt like when my mom, dad, or both of them, missed something special at school. I remember occasions when they were not able to attend a sports event in which I was involved or were not around for me to talk to because of the need to deliver "matters" to others. As a dad, I tried to honor those moments and to be faithful to my kids by being there with them and for them. As hard as I would try, there were still those times when I was torn apart because I would have to leave them to take care of someone else's need.

I could not name all of the middle-of-the-night crisis calls that came because a family was on the verge of destruction, a

sudden illness came, a car wreck occurred, or there was a death in the family. With a snap of your fingers and the ringing of a phone, everything changed. I suppose, for me personally, the lowest point, when there were no "matters" on the table, came when my oldest child graduated from college.

She was in her senior year and planning to graduate, but we did not know the date of the graduation. The time had not been set because of the desire on the part of the school to get the best speaker possible for the commencement. Finally, when the time was announced, it was quickly discovered that we had a problem. I was scheduled to perform a wedding on that same day. What do you do? Well, you try to explain that your daughter is graduating from college and some other arrangement will have to be worked out. Someone else will have to do the wedding. That all makes sense and seems easy enough, except I was expected to live up to my commitment. So on the day of graduation, I shared in the celebration of someone else's joy and had no "matters" on the table for my own family.

There are times when the pastor does not even have any "matters" for himself. This happened to me after having driven home from attending my father's funeral. As my family got out of the car, unlocked the door, and entered the house the phone was ringing. I answered the phone and it was the funeral home in our town. They had been trying to get in touch with me for some time and wanted to know if I would preach a funeral the next morning. Without even giving it a second thought, I said, "Yes, I will be there." As I hung up the phone, I said to myself, "I don't even have any time to grieve, to think, or to process the feelings of losing my own dad!" The folks involved knew nothing of what we had just been through, and I had to get ready to deliver some "matters" for their table the next morning.

These may be moving and even dramatic moments, but they are not exceptions to the daily process of life for the pastor. I do not write these words to complain, for I am blessed beyond measure. I do write for the benefit of some who might think otherwise. I want them to know that it is not always easy to be a pastor. Being a pastor requires work, strength, care, sensitivity, love, forgiveness, and diligence in order to provide good things for other folk's tables even when you know that there may not be any "matters" for your own table.

*The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*

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STAFF CHANGES



1. Matthews and family, Vaiden Church, Carroll-Montgomery Assoc.

1. **Vaiden Church, Carroll-Montgomery Association**, has called Freddie Matthews as pastor. He comes from Cruger Church, Holmes County. He holds a BA in Pastoral Ministry from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Connie and son Garret reside in Vaiden.

2. **Plainway Church, Laurel**, has called Mark Hanna as minister of activities.

3. **Parkway Church, Houston**, has called Frank Vaughn as minister of students/associate pastor. He and his wife Amy come from Duck Hill Church. Randy Rinehart, pastor.



2. Hanna

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Children's Choir, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale



2. Children's Group, Conehatta Church, Conehatta

1. The children's choir of **Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale**, held a dinner theater May 4 to raise money for the Glenoaks Nursing Home chapel fund. The event raised \$2000. Shown making the presentation is the choir; Eugene Hamilton, chaplain of Glenoaks; and pastor Greg Barker.

2. The children's group of **Conehatta Church, Conehatta**, recently visited the Hattiesburg Zoo during spring break. Shown are the participants.

3. **Bethesda Church, Terry**, recently had a Disciple Now weekend. Chris Layton led worship and

Louis Zinc was the speaker. Pictured are all participants. Robby Britt, pastor. Duncan Tucker, youth minister.

4. **Harrisville Church, Simpson County**, is hosting the Mark Trammell Trio in concert July 8, 10 a.m. Free admission, but a love offer-

ing will be taken. For information, call (601) 847-1593 or visit www.harrisville-baptistchurch.com.

5. **Concord Church, Pelahatchie**, will host Ann Downing in concert July 7, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be received; for information, call (601) 420-0943.

Bibliocipher

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ZEDQADCFDTZVAZY AZ
DCAF HNXEZWN ZED,
DCTD DCN FKAHADP
THN FOUXNWD OZDE
MEO; UOD HTDCNH
HNXEAWN UNWTOFN
MEOH ZTGNF THN
QHADDNZ AZ CNTLNZ.

SOBN DNZ: DQNZDM

Clue: O = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Six: Twenty-Two.

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3. Disciple Now Participants, Bethesda Church, Terry

HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Cato Church, Rankin County: Revival, July 22-27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Falvey, Mark Byrd, Robert Keyes, Scott Thomas, Jim Futral, and Wayne Van Horn, speakers, respectively; Joe Styron, music; Clarence Young, interim pastor.

Grace Southern Church, Calhoun City: Homecoming and Revival, July 22-27; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Michael Waldrop, speaker; Lowry Guest, music; Lisa Hill, pianist; Carl Morris, pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty: Homecoming and 160th anniversary, July 15; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner at noon; Scott Griffin, speaker; Clint and Laura Penalber, music.

Paynes Church, Tallahatchie County: Homecoming, July 8; services, 9:45 a.m. with a singing group and local singers; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; David Thomas, speaker.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



6. Bible Drillers, South Louisville Church, South Louisville



MISSISSIPPI
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7. Bible Drillers, First Church, Carthage



8. Mother's Day, First Church, Potts Camp



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First Baptist Church, Ripley

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Dr. Richard Ross



Professor of Student Ministry, Southwestern Theological Seminary, Spokesperson for "True Love Waits"

Mrs. Rita Sweatt



Pastor's Wife, Meadowood Baptist Church, Amory, MS, Sunday School Teacher of Single Moms, speaker for women's events/conventions

Dr. Johnny Derouen



Associate Professor of Student Ministry, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ms. Liz Thurmond



Associate Director of the Baptist Student Union, University of Mississippi

6. **South Louisville Church, Louisville**, recognizes its Bible Drillers: front row, Katie McCool, Zachary Allen; second row, Eric Davis, Jenna Lovorn, Nicholas Davis; third row, Robbie Faulk, Brandon Hemphill, Whitney Smith; fourth row, Emily Davis, Christin Sanders.

7. **First Church, Carthage**, recognizes its Bible Drillers: front row, Julia Weber, Jordan Gray; second row, Joshua Peoples, Chandler Mathis, Julianna Ingram, Dot Hamilton; third row, Austin Fortenberry, Mark Golden, Mary Elizabeth Rhea.

8. **First Church, Potts Camp**, recognized its mothers on Mother's Day. Shown are the mothers.

9. **First Church, Itta Bena**, hosted a Memorial Day fellowship, including a cookout and karaoke singing. Shown are some of the participants.

10. **New Prospect Church, Hamilton**, recognizes its Bible Drillers. Shown are Raimi Bryan, Alix Goodwin, Mikey Loftin, and Alison Atkins.

11. A music trio from **Shiloh Church, Big Creek**, called Shilo, has released their first CD, *It'll Be Worth It All*. The trio consists of David Phillips, Nick Phillips, and Barbara Hearn.

12. **Dorroh Lake Baptist Assembly, Webster County**, is holding a Girls Camp July 9-12 and a Boys Camp July 16-19. The camp offers activities and Bible studies for ages 8-17; cost is \$85. Send a \$10 deposit and t-shirt size to 725 Dorroh Lake Rd., Calhoun City, MS 38916. For more information, call Cybil Whitt, director, at (662) 258-7545.

13. **Mike Johnson, Ethel**, is available for revivals and crusades. He can be reached at (662) 674-0071.



9. Memorial Day Service, Itta Bena



10. Bible Drillers, New Prospect Church, Hamilton



1. Calvary Church, Oak Grove



2. Coldwater Church, Philadelphia

1. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, held their VBS June 4-8. Shown are the participants.

2. Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, held its VBS May 28-June 1, with an enrollment of 16 and average attendance of 12. The offering was given to the Happiness Hills Home for Girls, Neshoba County. Shown are the participants.

3. Concord Church, Booneville: July 9-13, 6-8:30 p.m.; all children through 12 years. Transportation provided if needed.

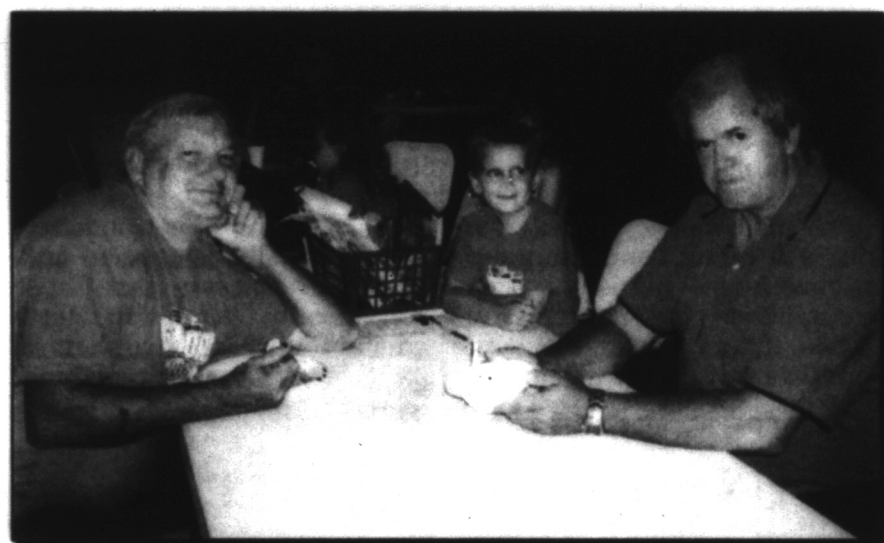
4. First Church, Polkville, held their VBS recently, giving their offering to The Baptist Children's Village. In a boys vs. girls competition in raising money, both the VBS director, Bobby Bradshaw, and pastor Norris Able, had their hair painted pink.

5. Straight Bayou Church, Anquilla, held their VBS June 3-8. Shown are the participants.

6. Hebron Church, Smithdale, held their VBS May 28-June 1. The children raised \$840 to have the Bible translated into the Hindi language. Shown are the participants.

7. Shiloh Church, Marion County: July 15-20, 6-8:30 a.m. All ages.

8. Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association, held its VBS recently with a total enrollment of 92 and an average attendance of 74. The mission offering of \$460.33 was given to the Peru mission.



4. Bradshaw and Able, First Church, Polkville



6. Hebron Church, Smithdale


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5. Straight Bayou Church, Anquilla

COLLEGE NEWS

1. The Blue Mountain College Ministerial Alumni Association recently announced the 2007-2008 recipients of the Travis Scholarships. Lucille Travis, wife of the late James L. Travis, is pictured with BMC ministerial scholarship recipients: Andrew Bailey (Albertville, Ala.), Joshua Baker (New Albany), Ryan Baker (New Albany), Tim Bass (Ripley), Andrew Best (Pride, La.), Kris Beville (Southaven), Bill Blackmon (Columbus), Jonathan Bryant (Houston), Randy Buse (Walnut), Jonathan Cagle (Belmont), Philip Carithers (Harvest, Ala.), Aaron Clay (Olive Branch), Chris Ferguson (Clarksdale), Tim Gassoway (Belmont), Daniel Harkins (Leland), Sam Henderson (Nesbit), Mark Hill (Bruce), Jonathan Hobson (Belzoni), Jesse Huggins (Corinth), Teddy James (New Albany), Brian Jones (Carthage), Austin Kimbrough (Mooreville), Matthew King (Water Valley), Ryan Mouser (Decatur, Ala.), Jack Napier (Blue Mountain), Joe Stewart (Blue Mountain), Joshua Warren (Derma), Jason Webb (Tupelo), and Clark Whitten (Corinth). Four Travis Leadership Scholarships were given to: Clark Whitten (freshman), Joe Stewart (junior), Andrew Best (sophomore), and Jack Napier (senior). Two incoming students receiving Travis Scholarship are: Charlie Cisco of Slayden and David Singleton of Saltillo.



2007-2008 Travis Scholarship Recipients, BMC



9. Pleasant Hill Church; Calhoun Association

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

United We Stand

Acts 2:42-47; 4:23-24, 29-35

By Laura Leathers

*Here's a church with a steeple,
Open the door and see all the people.*

The Acts of the Apostles, written in a narrative fashion, is Luke's second book and gives a detailed account regarding the growth of the early church. It has been said the Acts is a how to manual for the church and a model to emulate for pastors and believers. Spanning three decades of the church's existence the Acts emphasizes Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the gospel is offered to everyone (Jews and Gentiles), and it stresses the work of the Holy Spirit (mentioned over 50 times). The MacArthur Study Bible notes, "It was the spirit's directing, controlling, and empowering ministry that strengthened the church and caused it to grow in numbers, spiritual power, and influence."

Ask God for fresh insight as you look into "the first work of church history ever penned" and ask yourself is my church ...

1. United in Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)

After Pentecost, Peter preached and 3000 new believers were added to the church. There were four disciplines essential for the growth of this young group of believers. There was teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers. Fellowship (koinonia in the Greek) is more than a church-sponsored meal or social gathering. Notice it says there was teaching or a study of Scripture then fellowship. First and foremost fellowship is to be grounded in our oneness in Jesus Christ. Additionally, "fellowship reflects an attitude wherein we share all things in common. The all things

in common is the element of laughing together, crying together, and caring for each other." Christian fellowship is one of mutual consideration, edification, encouragement, trust, restoration, and utilizing each believer's spiritual gift.

As you study this passage note the number of times the word "all" is used. "All who believed were together, had all things in common, divided them among all, and having favor with all the people." That is unity! Also notice this body of believers met daily in the temple, in the houses, and ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. The fellowship at First Church Jerusalem was so awesome that all people were noticing. Therefore, "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." People wanted and desired the life the believers had and were living.

2. United in Prayer (Acts 4:23-24, 29-31)

Do difficulties draw you closer to the Lord in prayer or

do you become discouraged and quit?

Peter and John had been arrested by the Sadducees, the same people who condemned Jesus to die, for healing a lame man (Acts 3). They were brought before the Sanhedrin where Peter speaks with great power and authority, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. So great was their boldness that Luke writes, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Peter and John received their "Spiritual PhD" from the Master Teacher!

After they were dismissed Peter and John returned to "their own companions and reported all that had been said to them." Our focal passage centers in on their prayer for boldness. It is interesting to note the Sadducees already saw their boldness. Their prayer was to be even bolder in the midst of their difficulties. God granted their prayer: "they spoke the word of God with boldness." Is your church

united and praying for the same boldness?

3. United in Meeting Needs (Acts 4:32-35)

Do you hold your possessions lightly? The early church did! Meeting the needs was clearly demonstrated by the first church. They were "of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common." Those who were able, sold and brought to those who were lacking or had need. Because of their love, generosity, and kindness "great grace was upon them all." This means "God's grace was abundantly evident among them." Talk about a testimony to the community!

How do we best support other believers? The answer is simple and very plain, through fellowship, by prayer, and meeting the needs of others. Remember people on the outside of the church are looking in to see what is happening on the inside. Are we united or divided?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Humility

Zephaniah 1:12-15; 2:1-3; 3:11-12

By Charles Rodgers

The word that best describes the spiritual posture of the typical Christian today is the word apathy. Many church members just sit back and watch while a small segment of the people do all the work, the praying, the giving and the going. Personal convenience has replaced spiritual commitment, and the goal of Christianity is contentment rather than commitment. Sadly, many of these uncommitted people think that God is pleased with them. This is not the case.

Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Manasseh — 692-642 B.C. His work marked the beginning of a new line of prophets including Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, and Ezekiel. These men spoke out to seek to save Judah from the fate that had already

overtaken the northern kingdom. In the beginning, Zephaniah presents a very dismal, gloomy picture of Judah's sin and the impending doom. But later a new note is sounded, one of hope for universal salvation and ultimate restoration.

While the immediate application of Zephaniah's prophecies relates to Judah's national destruction as a punishment for the people's sins, the language also portrays God's wrath on the sins of "all the inhabitants of the earth" (1:18, 3:8) at the final Day of Judgment. It not only applies to the people of Judah, but to all people of all times who do not come to him in humility and faith.

In Zephaniah 1:12-15, Zephaniah presents our need for humility.

Rodgers

to seek Him and His guidance as sins against God that were unacceptable. These sins point to spiritual arrogance and pride. God promised to expose and punish His people's complacency, indifference, and materialism.

Just as it was true for Judah, it is equally true for the people of our day. There is a sense in which we flaunt our comfortable complacency, our indifference before God, thinking that God neither rewards nor punishes evil. It is as if we think that God will not hold us responsible or accountable for our attitudes. But, just as God fulfilled His promise to Judah, God will also punish His people of all generations. He will bring judgment upon us if we do not come before Him in humility.

In chapter 2:1-3, Zephaniah reminds us of God's call to humility.

God's words of judgment also have a redemptive objective, namely, to lead His people to turn humbly to Him. Listen to the plea of the prophet on behalf of God. "Come together and hold assembly. Seek the Lord all ye humble. Seek righteousness. Seek humility." It seems to be a last chance plea from the prophet. It may not be too late. One writer said that following the gloom, unmitigated and unrelieved in any way, Zephaniah sends one shaft of light into the darkness. A remnant may yet be saved. There is only one way of escape mentioned here. Those who come to God in humility and seek to return to the commandments of the Lord may find mercy during the day of God's fierce wrath on the land. His plea is for all to come in shame and remorse seeking to find mercy from God.

It was an individual and a corporate call for all to seek Him, to

seek righteousness, and to seek humility before His promised punishment arrived. They did not know just how long they had, individually or collectively, to genuinely humble themselves before the Lord. Neither do we!

In chapter 3:11-12, Zephaniah reminds us of the benefits of humility.

These verses are set in the context of immediate and future restoration and exaltation for the people of Israel. They provide a message of hope for the remnant. The shame will be removed since the sins of pride and haughtiness no longer exist among those humble and obedient before God. The meek and humble will find safety and security in the Lord. They will find refuge in times of trouble, and they will not live in fear. The same is true for us. As we live humbly before the Lord, we experience all the benefits of living in fellowship with Him.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Finding Our Place of Service

Acts 6:1-7; 9:36-40; 11:29-30

By Laura Leathers

At this time of year nominating committees are hard at work! Needed are people who will serve on committees, teach, and fill other ministry positions. Completion date is by August 31st. "Will you serve" is a repeated phrase from members of the committee. Before you say yes or no — do you pray, consider your spiritual gift, and reflect on your particular calling. God has a unique ministry plan with a specific purpose and place just for you.

Therefore, as members of His church we need to realize ...

1. We Can Serve in Different Ways (Acts 6:1-7)

All of God's work is important and there is no scale regarding areas or degrees of importance.

"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). Paul tells us "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all ... But one and the same spirit works all this things, distributing to each one individually as He wills" (1 Cor. 12:4-6,11).

In the focal passage we see the first major division to face the early church. It arose against the Hebrews over the equal distribution of food to the Hellenists widows. Last week's lesson told us there was unity and a sharing of all things. This problem does not mean there



Leathers

was no longer unity, but a dilemma to be addressed. The apostles knew their calling was studying and teaching the Word of God and their responsibility was to be in prayer and ministry of the word.

Therefore, the solution was to choose seven men who had a "good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" to serve the tables. Then as a matter of affirmation and support the disciples laid hands on the seven men chosen and prayed for them. When we are serving in the ways and areas God has placed us in we should be able to say, "Then the word of God spread ... the priests were obedient to the faith" (vs. 7). Serving for God's glory!

2. We Can Serve Through Our Skills (Acts 9:36-40)

Recently, I met a woman who told me she baked a cake everyday. As the cake baked, she would pray and ask God to show her who was going to be the recipient. She said He would

give her a name and then she would deliver it. She used her skills in the kitchen to serve the Lord through a cake ministry.

Dorcas, known as a certain disciple named Tabitha, became very sick and died. The widows were so grieved they sent for Peter to come quickly. Once he arrived the widows showed him all the tunics and garments Dorcas had made. They missed her greatly, not because she showcased her skills, but ministered to them through her sewing. Notice in this passage we are not told she was a seamstress until verse 39. Instead she was known for being a woman "full of good works and charitable deeds."

How has the Lord gifted you and how are you using your skills, training, and abilities for ministry, missions, and evangelism? The attention is not to display our skills but to bring honor and glory to the Lord and to meet needs.

3. We Can Serve Through Giving (Acts 11:29-30)

Anticipating a need and then giving to meet that need is another way we can serve. An

excellent illustration is through Agabus, a prophet from Jerusalem. He warned there would be a great famine throughout the world. We do know "a great famine" did occur in Israel around A.D. 45-46 through other writers. His warning challenged the disciples to give "according to his ability," (vs 29). Not only did they give, but they sent Barnabas and Saul to deliver their gifts — a personal touch!

The Mississippi Disaster Relief Unit was ready to serve when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August of 2005. Anticipating a tremendous need, the teams were placed on alert status, cases of food, water, and other supplies were packed, and other units across the nation were kept informed and prepared to assist. Filling the need would not have been possible if Mississippi Baptists had not been giving and training prior to this disaster. And they continue to meet needs on the coast. All because it is they are Him I Serve ...

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Commitment

Haggai 1:7-9, 12-15; 2:15-19

By Charles Rodgers

The hen and the pig were walking in the yard one day. The hen had heard that a visiting minister was spending the night at the farm that night. The hen said to the pig, "Say, it's not every day that we get the opportunity to help one of God's faithful servants, so, why don't you and I get together and provide a special ham and egg breakfast for the minister in the morning?" The pig replied, "wait a minute, this is a mere contribution for you, but for me it requires total commitment." Most people have placed themselves at the center of their own universe. They are concerned primarily about their own desires, ambitions and well being. Their priorities are selfish. To make a faith commitment to the Lord means that He becomes

the center of our universe. His priorities become our priorities. Like the pig, this certainly appears to be easier for others than it is for us.

God desires that His people fulfill His purposes here on earth and to do that we must make His work our priority. According to Haggai there are three steps that we need to take.

We must evaluate our priorities. Haggai 1:7-9

The setting of Haggai is eighteen years after the first exiles had returned from Babylon. They have returned around 537 B.C. and have apparently erected an altar at the site of the old temple. They have cleared away some of the rubble from the old walls, but have progressed no further in 18 years. Haggai cites the Lord in chapter 1:2. God says



Rodgers

to Haggai "these people say: the time has not come for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt." And then God poses a question for Haggai to present to the people. "Is it time for you to live in your paneled houses while my house lies in ruins?" It's as if God is saying, "think about it! Do you think you are doing the right thing here?"

God is calling for His people to change their priorities and start rebuilding the temple. They had been more interested in their own prosperity than with rebuilding the temple. In verse seven He reminds them to think carefully about their ways. He encourages them to go get lumber and get to building the temple. A rebuilt temple would please and glorify God. He reminds them that in their present state they are expecting God's blessings upon them, but their expectations were not being met because their priorities were not right.

We must follow Godly leaders. Haggai 1:12-15

The people obeyed the voice of God and the words of the prophet. They immediately began to work on rebuilding the temple. Too many congregations are off-course, divided and/or spiritually powerless today because of confused priorities among the members. Too often churches criticize or dismiss their ministers rather than hear and heed what the Lord is telling them through their God-called leaders. We give priority to doing the Lord's work when we obey His word given through His dedicated leaders.

We can experience life's fullness. Haggai 2:15-19

In these verses, Haggai suggests that the people take a look back. He reminds them that because of their confused priorities, God had withheld his blessings upon them. It seems that they were simply going through the motions of trusting and serving God and were not receiving God's richest blessings upon their lives. They experienced

drought and famine, as well as, contamination of their spiritual leaders and their holy things. They were not following the Lord or His messengers, and as a result they were missing out on the bountiful blessings of God.

Haggai also suggests that the people take a look forward. God says at the end of 2:19 "but from this day on I will bless you." Because of the faithfulness of the people to rebuild the temple, God promised to do great and mighty things and to allow this remnant of His people to share in the glory of His victory. When we express our commitment to the Lord by giving priority to His work, He meets our needs and we experience the joy of helping to carry out His work in the world. All the blessings of God are poured out upon His faithful people and His victories become their victories.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

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The Baptist Children's Village is looking for individuals to join their ministry team. Applicants must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff to be considered for the available position.

Houseparent Job Opening on India Nunnery Campus, Jackson

The primary job responsibility of a house parent is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents. The duties of a houseparent are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

Other job responsibilities:

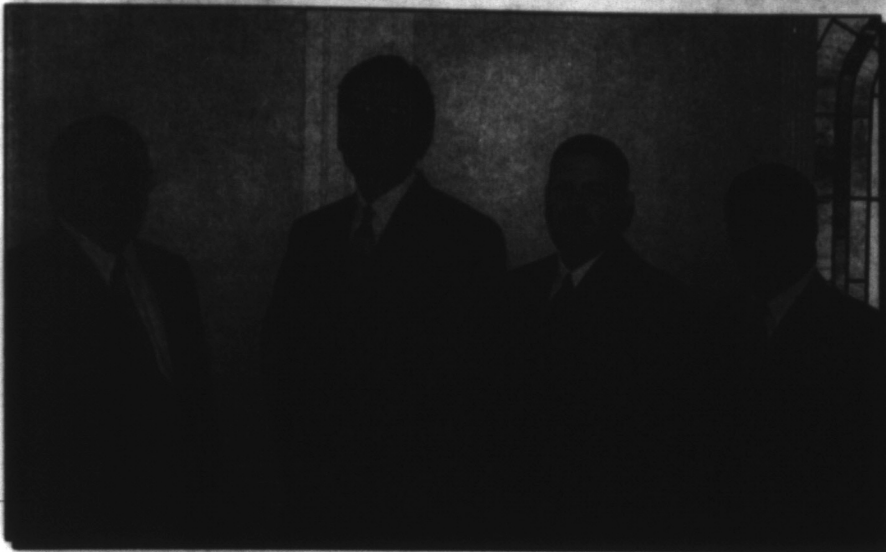
- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage

Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- A single woman or a husband/wife team will be considered for this position
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record, but some college is preferred
- Educational background must be at a minimum a GED.
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Good organizational skills

To request an application or for more information please go to
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com or call 601-922-2242.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



14. Deacon Ordination, Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association



15. Memorial Day, Hopewell Church, Water Valley

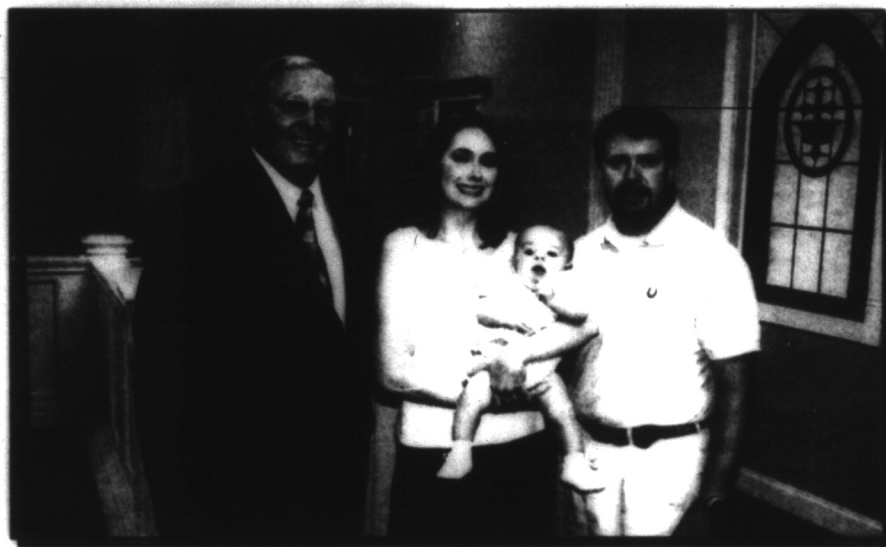
14. **Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association**, recently ordained Jimmy Clemons, Doug Denton, and David Clark as deacons. Danny Spratlin, pastor.

15. **Hopewell Church, Water Valley**, held its first cemetery memorial service this past Memorial Day. The cemetery is over 160 years old. Shown are pastor Rick Glidewell, Guy Dale Shaw, and Andy Grass.

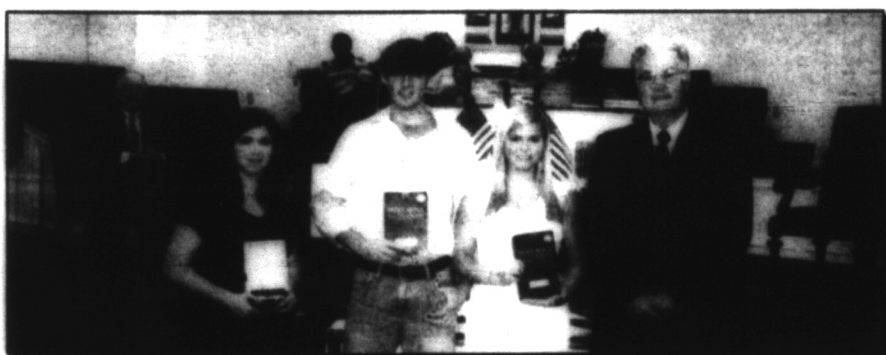
16. **Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association**, held a baby dedication in which Charles Noah Clark, son of David and Cresta Clark.

17. **Border Springs Church, Caledonia**, recognizes its youth Bible Drillers: Mark Dodson, Leslie Williams, Ashley Moore, Cheryl Fairchild, Ashley Dodson, Matthew Brock, Alaina Ulmer, Cheyenne Allen, Alicia Smith, and Jennifer Blair.

18. **First Church, Potts Camp**, recognizes its graduates. Shown are Cody Barrett, Rebecca Martin, high school; Renee Edlin, college; and Jim Buchanan.



16. Baby Dedication, Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association



18. Graduates, First Church, Potts Camp



17. Youth Bible Drillers, Border Springs, Caledonia

CLASSIFIED ADS

ATTENTION FATHERS, grandfathers, sons, mens' groups. Promise Keepers & white water rafting July 18-21. Ocoee river rafting, Nashville Pk., 3 nights, 4 days. Includes modern motor coach, motels, tickets, rafting & 6 meals, \$375, quad. occupancy. Purpose Driven Tours, (601) 371-8733.

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HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE & beachfront vacation condos. Summer specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two nights efficiency sleeps 4 beachside, \$328. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$872. Two nights, 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$533. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$994. Prices include everything. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524., expires 8/5/7. Memorial Day and July 4 weekends not included.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **CHURCH FURNITURE FOR SALE**: solid oak pews 24 - 12', 2 - 4' all with removable pads, podium 4' by 20" and communion table 5 1/2' by 2', \$10,000. Call between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., Bobby (601) 722-3783, Franklin (601) 428-1121, Sylvia (601) 722-4712.

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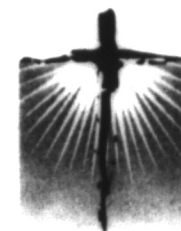
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JASPER COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION located in Bay Springs, Miss., is seeking a part-time bi-vocational Association

Missions Director. This is a part-time position, and the position does not include housing facilities. Please send resumes no later than July 1, 2007 to Jasper County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 385, Bay Springs, Ms. 39422.

7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION/ Ancient Troy/Istanbul — November 9-17, 2007 — Join Rev. & Mrs. Gary Bowlin and other Christians on an exciting 9-day visit to the 7 Churches of Revelation, plus Troy and Istanbul. Superior accommodations. Led over 60 international trips. \$2,649 from Jackson (plus tips and taxes). For further information and brochure, call 601-276-7245, or email garybowlin@bellsouth.net.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP Ministries: Bon Air Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., full-time position. Candidates will a bachelor's degree. In addition, a seminary degree with at least five years relevant experience is preferred. Visit www.bonairbaptist.org for additional details. Send resume, with cover letter to apdm-searchteam@bonairbaptist.org.



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MS POSITIONS

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH in Myrtle, Miss., is now receiving resumes for a Youth/Student Minister. Please indicate married/single, years experience, and your personal testimony. Mail resumes to Macedonia Baptist Church, 033 County Road 19, Myrtle Ms 38650.

BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, MS is seeking a bi-vocational Minister of Music. Average Church Attendance 150. Please send resume to search committee, 1857 Florence Byram Rd., Florence, MS 39073, or email to resume@hickoryridgebaptist.org.

JERICO BAPTIST CHURCH in Guntown, Miss., is seeking a part-time Music Director. Applicant must be able to lead the choir and congregation with a variety of music styles. Qualified person will need to be able to read music. Send resume to: Bro. Marvin Robbins, 2179 CR 171, Guntown, MS 38849.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS: Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar, Miss., is a growing church at the center of a growing rural suburb of Memphis, Tennessee. We are accepting resumes for a full-time minister of students. Candidates may send resumes to: search committee, 2534 Highway 72, Lamar, MS 38642. Email: slaydenchurch@bellsouth.net or fax (662) 252-5248.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, located on 49 south in Braxton, Miss., seeking a Minister of Music. Send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: music committee, P.O. Box 111, Braxton, MS 39044.

Baptists workers bid final farewell to Jibla hospital

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist doctors Judy Williams and Bruce Roach used to have a friendly competition at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen: Who would work the longest "shift" without walking out the front gate?

"I think the longest for me was three months," recalls Williams, a surgeon who arrived in the isolated Arab nation in 1999. "People would bring me food, and we had a commissary on the compound. I'll be the first to admit I'm a workaholic, and my work was in the operating room. That's where my friendships with Yemenis were made."

Williams was one of the last in a long line of Southern Baptist workers who gave their skills, their hearts — and in the case of three missionaries slain on the job, their lives — to the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who came to the hospital for care.

When Williams and several co-workers walked out the gate of the hospital compound for the last time this spring, their departure marked the end of four decades of fulltime Southern Baptist presence at the hospital, which was begun by missionary doctor Jim Young in 1967.

Second ending

Official involvement of Yemen Baptist Mission personnel at Jibla Hospital ended May 1. That date actually marked a second ending. The hospital passed from International Mission Board administration into Yemeni hands more than four years ago.

On Dec. 30, 2002, Southern Baptist workers were trying to complete a complicated transfer of the institution to Yemeni control when physician Martha Myers, hospital administrator Bill Koehn, and purchasing manager Kathy Gariety were shot by a Muslim militant who burst into Koehn's office.

Myers died on the spot. Williams and other hospital workers tried to save Koehn and Gariety, but their point-blank gunshot wounds were fatal. A Southern Baptist pharmacist also was shot and seriously wounded in the attack, but later recovered.

Jibla reopened in early 2003 under Yemeni administration. Several Southern Baptist workers, including Williams, continued to serve on the staff, providing critical management and medical sup-

port. Late last year, the eight remaining Baptist workers (seven Southern Baptists and a Mexican Baptist doctor) decided the time had come to end fulltime involvement at the hospital.

"We completed what we set out to do," Williams said of the decision. "From a medical perspective, the hospital had been transitioned to the Yemeni government and was treating more patients than it ever had with minimal input from Yemen Baptist Mission personnel. Regarding matters of the heart, they too were progressing. In many ways, our presence in Jibla was hindering growth."

"If we hadn't completed our work, the rest of the team would still be living on the compound in Jibla continuing to work in what can be a very difficult and yet rewarding field of service, both medically and spiritually."

Yemen Baptist Mission workers will continue involvement in several ministries begun at the hospital, including aid to needy widows, orphans and migrant Bedouin camps in the area. One Baptist physician still works in the hospital's outpatient clinic twice a month.

Workers also hope to continue partnering with the hospital in medical education and life-saving community immunization programs in Yemen's countryside.

In a letter to veterans and supporters of the hospital, Williams said: "We do not see this as a sign of failure, but rather as a sign of growth. That does not mean it will be easy or without a sense of loss and grieving. I know from previous experiences that this process may actually be easier for those of us physically here than for you from afar."

Only the dedicated band of missionaries, workers and volunteers who served at Jibla can understand the depth of those words.

Four decades of service

Over the past 40 years, they endured extended civil war in Yemen, a disastrous fire, numerous financial crises, ongoing personnel shortages, political pressures, legal battles that threatened to shut down the hospital, kidnappings, and the murder of three of their own.

They faced the daily challenge of treating and loving the endless stream of patients who came to the little hospital from all over the impoverished



FOR THE CAUSE — Missionary physician Martha Myers (left) alternated marathon days and nights treating patients at Yemen's Jibla Baptist Hospital with unscheduled "house calls," extended excursions into far-flung mountain villages to visit and care for Yemeni families many of whom could not reach the hospital. She also pioneered several new types of surgery to help Yemeni women and led far-reaching immunization efforts in the region. Myers was killed by a Muslim militant in 2002. (BP photo)

Middle Eastern nation of more than 19 million people.

At its peak, the 77-bed mission hospital employed several hundred workers, treated some 40,000 people a year, performed more than 400 surgeries a month, and operated a busy outpatient clinic.

For a time, it offered a weekly chapel that was the only public Christian worship service in the conservative Muslim nation.

Patients included everyone from villagers, who had never laid eyes on a doctor, to powerful sheiks and government officials. They knew Jibla offered some of the best and most compassionate medical care in Yemen.

"So many times I thought, 'I can't do anything else,' and yet they just kept coming and coming," remembers missionary nurse Kelly Hawkins (not her real name). "We struggled with the work setting, the intensity and just the length of hours we had to put in while trying to care for our young family."

Hawkins and her husband Doug (not his real name), also a nurse, directed nursing and ancillary services, ran the operating room, and filled many other roles during their 15 years at the hospital. Doug served as interim hospital administrator several times when his close friend Koehn was on home assignment in the United States.

Today, they help coordinate Southern Baptist work throughout Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Often, they treated entire families in the hospital's renowned burn unit. They once cared for nine members of a single family who had suffered terrible burns in an accident.

"Just to take pressure off our other nurses, Kelly and I would go in every day and change their dressings," Doug says. "You're stripping off dead skin, so they would holler the whole time, just scream in pain. Those are the days that were tough."

One frantic night during Ramadan, the annual Muslim period of fasting and repentance, most local hospital workers were at home with their families. Many foreign medical workers were temporarily out of the country because of tensions related to the first Persian Gulf War. The Hawkinses found themselves covering virtually the entire hospital.

Kelly was the only nurse on the women's ward with 37 patients, not counting the 10-bed maternity ward. Her only scheduled Yemeni helper didn't arrive at work.

"Kelly had nine patients in the delivery room and four or five of them were in active labor," Doug recalls. "Our 11-year-old daughter came to help. Kelly delivered premature twins, and both were in respiratory difficulty. This little 11-year-old girl sat there for an hour resuscitating those babies, helping them breathe with oxygen. One of them died, but she just kept going."

Both of the Hawkinses' daughters are medical professionals today. Jibla had a way of getting everybody involved.

Staying the course

"This hospital played a very important part in maturing missionaries, young and old," Kelly says. "Many of us came to Jibla young, and we were mentored well. We learned a lot of hard lessons. I think God knew the type of people He needed in Jibla were 'plodder' types — not many shining stars, but people who were consistent and who would stay the course, through the long haul."

The ultimate "plodder" at Jibla was Bill Koehn, the low-key former grocery store manager from Kansas who led the hospital as administrator for 28 years. He was quiet and predictable, an old-school manager who operated on a strict daily schedule.

Koehn's highly structured style enabled him to handle the countless details involved in running the hospital and deal with the countless crises that threatened it. Yet he somehow had the time to make wooden toys for the orphanage he loved to visit, to assist needy widows in the community, to drink tea with Yemenis, and listen to their struggles and needs.

After his death, Koehn's wife Marty returned to serve at Jibla. She also petitioned the president of Yemen to spare the life of her husband's convicted killer, Abed Abdul Razak Kamel (Kamel was executed last year). She came back to the United States in January to retire from missionary service.



BAPTIST OUTPOST — Begun by missionary physician Jim Young in 1967, Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen endured civil war, fire, financial crises, personnel shortages, legal battles, kidnappings, and the murder of three Southern Baptist missionaries in 2002. Its biggest daily challenge: treating the endless stream of patients who came to the little hospital from all over the impoverished Middle Eastern nation. Patients included everyone from villagers to powerful officials. They knew Jibla offered some of the best and most compassionate care in Yemen. (BP photo)